

BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

REVIEW OF ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION: I—General Editor: Joseph Hamburg, MD, Dean, College of Allied Health Professions, University of Kentucky; Associate Editors: Darrel J. Mase, PhD, Professor, Division of Health Systems Research, University of Florida College of Health Related Professions; and J. Warren Perry, PhD, Dean, School of Health Related Professions, State University of New York at Buffalo, and Editor, *Journal of Allied Health*. The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington (40506), 1974. 234 pages, \$7.50.

This book is one in a planned series designed to provide a common literature on allied health education. The editors describe this review as the first of a series to "provide a current appraisal of the developments in allied health education and research," which it is hoped will "seek to help bind the health professions into a true alliance." In general, this volume does accomplish the first of its purposes through an historical and philosophical review of five major allied health professions (dental, radiologic technology, clinical laboratory technology, physician's assistant and occupational therapy). The three objectives stated for this volume are noble and inspiring. However, it is likely that only portions of the information may help to create "new levels of understanding for students, educators and practitioners." In light of the listed objectives, one may be inclined, upon completion of this book, to rank allied health education somewhere between delight and doom.

Dr. Pelligrino (as well as Drs. Jacques and Perry) summarize, in an exemplary and delightful manner, the concepts and concerns central to the utilization of manpower in curing and preventing illness of the health care population. Much that is said by these authors within the first two chapters is not new; rather, it might be said that their thoughts are contrary to many beliefs and views, and thus could be considered as innovative. The willingness of the professions to dissolve boundaries and collapse overlapping tasks and responsibilities has not occurred with earthshaking speeds—for a variety of rational and irrational reasons. In a subsequent chapter, Dr. Samuel Martin raises the essential questions of economics of health care relative to various professionals. The costs of providing care would seem to obviate against the escalation of inordinate numbers of professional careers, and the author's call for more experience with pricing and entrepreneurship provides stimulating thoughts for the truly cost-conscious professional.

A feeling of doom settles in, however, as one begins to complete the remaining chapters on the individual allied health professions. The complexities which have evolved within as well as between professional disciplines smacks of the realities to be overcome if indeed "allied" health will ever live up to its appellation. The text demonstrates that allied health has been fraught by miscommunication and fragmentation, and is further aggravated by developing specialties within professional ranks.

For a more logical and efficient utilization of manpower in providing care, the issues raised by the authors above command resolution before any future development and expansion of the professions. Perhaps one neglected factor requiring attention is the realm of power. Professionals may do well to look beyond their selfish boundaries and attempt to answer, Who has the power over life? As one of the authors states, the time has come to "get it all together" . . . "our survival depends upon it." These issues are of crucial importance—not only to the future developments of "allied" health edu-

cation, but also to the changing scene of medical practice.

This volume may be helpful to those new to the field of allied health. It is undoubtedly incomplete, and no attempt was made to cover the myriad facets of allied health. Future reviews may prove to be valuable in providing for a common literature where the broad issues relating to this vast complex can be appropriately addressed.

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HUMAN ENDOCRINOLOGY—A Developmental Approach—Dorothy B. Villee, MD, Department of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia (19105), 1975. 479 pages, \$16.75.

The theme of this text is the influence of maturation and the changes in cell machinery on the mechanisms by which endocrine and metabolic abnormalities are mediated. It provides a needed emphasis on the importance of age as a determinant in the clinical expression of endocrine and metabolic disorders.

The book is divided into five major parts. In Part One, "The Fetus," fertilization, embryogenesis, the placenta, organogenesis of the endocrine glands and endocrine control of fetal metabolism and differentiation are discussed. Part Two, "The Newborn," concerns the endocrine and metabolic changes of the perinatal period, disorders of carbohydrate metabolism in the newborn, the adrenal gland of the newborn, and abnormalities of sexual differentiation. The homeostasis of water and electrolytes, the homeostasis of glucose, and the biochemical basis of growth and its control are considered in Part Three, "The Child." Part Four, "The Adolescent," deals with bone metabolism, calcium homeostasis, the influence of sex hormones on skeletal maturation, sexual maturation and reproduction. In Part Five, "Postmaturation and Senescence," adult onset diabetes, osteoporosis, male climacteric, menopause, obesity, atherosclerosis, hypertension, structural changes with age and neoplastic disorders are discussed. Discussion of physiologic hormonal regulation is followed by examples of clinical disorders.

A criticism of the book relates to the reference style used. Each chapter is followed by a list of standard references with commentary on the value of each. After some chapters, a list of pertinent selections from the literature is included. Although this style is consistent with the stated intention of the author, the inclusion of references specific for the data given in the text would have enhanced the book's value as a reference source.

The information is presented in a concise, informative and readable manner. The book affords a real opportunity to gain knowledge for a variety of readers in addition to the medical students for which it was intended, that is, interns and residents, pediatricians and family physicians. Doctor Villee has been successful in her goal to present an overview of the regulatory influence of hormones as life unfolds in logical sequence from procreation to death.

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